Fund (CRF) has been constituted with an allocated amount for each State, which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Government in the ratio of 3:1. State Level Committee under Chief Secretary of the State in fully empowered under the Scheme to operate CRF in accordance with the extant items and norms.

In the event of a calamity of a severe nature, when the funds available under CRF is inadequate, additional financial assistance is also provided from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in accordance with the established procedure.

An amount of Rs. 210.63 crore has been allocated to the State in the CRF for the year 2008-09, consisting or Rs. 157.97 crore as Central contribution and Rs. 52.66 crore as State contribution. The 1st installment of Central share of CRF, amounting to Rs. 78.985 crore, has been released on 19th August, 2008. In addition, an amount of Rs. 300.00 crore on an "on account" basis has been released from NCCF, to the State Government for management of flood-2008 on 24th September, 2008. The State Government is undertaking necessary relief operations in the flood-affected areas out of the funds available in the corpus of the CRF.

The State Government of Assam has submitted a memorandum seeking additional central assistance from NCCF for immediate relief operations in the areas affected by floods during 2008. The report of the Central Team, which visited the affected areas for on-the-spot assessment of damage and requirements of funds for relief operations is being processed as per the established procedure. The extant items and norms, *inter-alia* provide assistance for damage to crops and damage to houses.

Utilisation report on CRF from Assam Government

945. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam has not yet submitted the utilisation report on Central Relief Fund received till 2007-08;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of amount allocated and released to the Government of Assam considering the urgency to provide various relief and rehabilitation to the flood and erosion affected families in Assam for 2008; and

(d) the year-wise details of amount allocated and utilisation made so far in different heads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (d) As per the Scheme of financing the assistance for relief expenditure, the State Governments concerned are primarily responsible for undertaking necessary relief measures in the wake of identified natural disasters which include flood. Distribution of relief on ground is the

responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistic and financial support, where necessary. For this purpose a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted with an allocated amount for each State, which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Government in the ration of 3:1.

The State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State is fully authorized under the Scheme of CRF to operate the Fund as per the items and norms of assistance approved by the Government of India. In the event of calamity of a severe nature, in which the requirement of funds for relief operations is beyond the funds available in the State CRF account, additional Central assistance is also considered from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the established procedure.

Details of allocation and release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and additional funds released from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) are as under:—

Rs. in crore

Year	Allocation under CRF	Central share	Center's share of CRF released	Released from NCCF
2007-08	204.48	153.36	153.36	0.00
2008-09 (as on 12th December, 2008)	210.63	157.97	78.985	300.00
TOTAL	415.11	311.33	232.345	300.00*

*Released on adhoc basis from NCCF.

As per the Scheme of CRF, Accountant General in charge of account of the State shall maintain accounts of the Fund in the normal course. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India would cause audit of CRF to be conducted every year in terms of purposes of the CRF Scheme. As per the information received from AG (A and E), Assam, State Government has reported the expenditure of Rs. 140.06 crore from the CRF account during the year 2007-08.

Granting Indian Citizenship to Afghan Hindus and Sikhs

946. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to grant Indian Citizenship to Afghan Hindus and Sikhs who came to India in distress;

(b) whether Government has decreased the twelve years normal stay limit to them for granting citizenship as a special case;